# CCRB INVESTIGATIVE RECOMMENDATION

		ESTIGNITY E						_	*** **
Investigator:		Team:	CCRB Case #:		Force	$   \sqrt{} $	Discourt.		
Leanne Fornelli		Squad #16	201510086	V	Abuse	V	O.L.		Injury
Incident Date(s)		Location of Incident:	•	F	Precinct:	18	Mo. SOL	]	EO SOL
Wednesday, 11/11/2015 11:05 A 11/17/2015	M, Tuesday	3125 Park Avenue; 313 44th Precinct stationho			44	5,	/11/2017	5	/11/2017
Date/Time CV Reported		CV Reported At:	How CV Reported	l:	Date/Time	Rece	eived at CCI	RB	
Wed, 11/18/2015 6:34 AM		AB Phone Fri,			Fri, 11/27/	ri, 11/27/2015 12:18 PM			
Complainant/Victim	Туре	Home Addre	ess						
Subject Officer(s)	Shield	TaxID	Command						
1. POM Matthew Manchester	08850	951959	044 PCT						
2. POM Alan Avella	21757	934431	044 PCT						
3. POM Justin Gelband	14227	952771	044 PCT						
4. POM William Garner	20756	951760	044 PCT						
5. An officer			044 PCT						
6. Officers			044 PCT						
Witness Officer(s)	Shield N	o Tax No	Cmd Name						
1. SGT Michael Cronin	00348	897264	044 PCT						
2. POM Denis Regimbal	12295	951122	044 PCT						
Officer(s)	Allegatio	on			Inve	stiga	ator Recon	nme	endation
A.POM Alan Avella					e in				
B.POM William Garner		on November 11, 2015, and the Bronx, PO William \$87(2)(b) were occupants.		ne ve	hicle				
C.POM Alan Avella	Park Ave	esy: On November 11, 2 enue in the Bronx, PO A ously to \$87(2)(b)	lan Avella spoke	8125 nd	87(2)				
D.POM Alan Avella		on November 11, 2015, and the Bronx, PO Alan A							
E.POM Alan Avella		on November 11, 2015, and the Bronx, PO Alan A							
F.POM Alan Avella		On November 11, 2015, and the Bronx, PO Alan A							

Allegation	Investigator Recommendation
Abuse: On November 11, 2015, at the rear of 3125 Park Avenue in the Bronx, PO Alan Avella searched the vehicle in which \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b) were occupants.	
Abuse: On November 17, 2015, at the rear of 3135 Park Avenue in the Bronx, PO Alan Avella stopped the vehicle in which sa7(2)(b) and sa7(2)(b) were occupants.	
Abuse: On November 17, 2015, at the rear of 3135 Park Avenue in the Bronx, PO Matthew Manchester stopped the vehicle in which \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b) were occupants.	
Abuse: On November 17, 2015, at the rear of 3135 Park Avenue in the Bronx, PO Justin Gelband stopped the vehicle in which \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b) were occupants.	
Abuse: On November 17, 2015, at the rear of 3135 Park Avenue in the Bronx, PO Alan Avella frisked (8) 87(2)	
Abuse: On November 17, 2015, at the rear of 3135 Park Avenue in the Bronx, PO Alan Avella searched (8) 87(2)	
Abuse: On November 17, 2015 at the rear of 3135 Park Avenue in the Bronx, an officer searched the vehicle in which \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b) were occupants.	
Abuse: On November 11, 2015, at the rear of 3125 Park Avenue in the Bronx, PO Alan Avella searched (8072)	
Discourtesy: On November 17, 2015, en route to the 44th Precinct stationhouse, PO Alan Avella spoke discourteously to \$87(2)(6)	
Off. Language: On November 17, 2015, en route to the 44th Precinct stationhouse, PO Alan Avella spoke offensively to \$87(2)(0)	
Abuse: On November 17, 2015, at the 44th Precinct stationhouse, PO Alan Avella strip-searched [8] 87(2)	
Abuse: On November 17, 2015, at the 44th Precinct stationhouse, PO Matthew Manchester strip-searched (h)	
	Abuse: On November 17, 2015, at the rear of 3125 Park Avenue in the Bronx, PO Alan Avella searched the vehicle in which \$37(200) were occupants.  Abuse: On November 17, 2015, at the rear of 3135 Park Avenue in the Bronx, PO Alan Avella stopped the vehicle in which \$37(200) were occupants.  Abuse: On November 17, 2015, at the rear of 3135 Park Avenue in the Bronx, PO Matthew Manchester stopped the vehicle in which \$37(200) and \$37(200) were occupants.  Abuse: On November 17, 2015, at the rear of 3135 Park Avenue in the Bronx, PO Justin Gelband stopped the vehicle in which \$37(200) and \$37(200) were occupants.  Abuse: On November 17, 2015, at the rear of 3135 Park Avenue in the Bronx, PO Alan Avella frisked \$37(200) were occupants.  Abuse: On November 17, 2015, at the rear of 3135 Park Avenue in the Bronx, PO Alan Avella frisked \$37(200) were occupants.  Abuse: On November 17, 2015, at the rear of 3135 Park Avenue in the Bronx, PO Alan Avella searched \$37(200) were occupants.  Abuse: On November 17, 2015, at the rear of 3135 Park Avenue in the Bronx, PO Alan Avella searched \$37(200) were occupants.  Abuse: On November 17, 2015, at the rear of 3125 Park Avenue in the Bronx, PO Alan Avella searched \$37(200) were occupants.  Abuse: On November 17, 2015, at the rear of 3125 Park Avenue in the Bronx, PO Alan Avella spoke discourteously to \$37(200) off. Language: On November 17, 2015, en route to the 44th Precinct stationhouse, PO Alan Avella spoke offensively to \$37(200) off. Language: On November 17, 2015, at the 44th Precinct stationhouse, PO Alan Avella spoke offensively to \$37(200) off. Language: On November 17, 2015, at the 44th Precinct stationhouse, PO Alan Avella spoke offensively to \$37(200) off. Language: On November 17, 2015, at the 44th Precinct stationhouse, PO Alan Avella strip-searched \$37(200) off. Language: On November 17, 2015, at the 44th Precinct stationhouse, PO Alan Avella strip-searched \$37(200) off. Language: On November 17, 2015, at the 44th Precinct stationhouse, PO Alan Avella strip-searched

Officer(s)	Allegation	Investigator Recommendation
W. An officer	Discourtesy: On November 17, 2015, at the 44th Precinct stationhouse, an officer spoke discourteously to \$\sec{8}{15}\$ (2)	
X. Officers	Off. Language: On November 17, 2015, at the 44th Precinct stationhouse, officers spoke offensively to [87(2)(b)]	
§ 87(4-b), § 87(2)(g)		
§ 87(4-b), § 87(2)(g)		

# **Case Summary**

On November 18, 2015, \$\frac{87(2)(b)}{87(2)(b)}\$ filed this complaint via telephone with the Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB). On November 27, 2015, the CCRB received the complaint under IAB Log 15-36426 (Board Review 01). This case addresses the following allegations from two incidents involving the same officer, PO Alan Avella of the 44th Precinct:  On November 11, 2015, at approximately 11:05 a.m., at the rear of 3125 Park Avenue in the Bronx, PO Avella and PO William Garner of the 44th Precinct stopped the car occupied by \$\frac{87(2)(b)}{87(2)(b)}\$ and \$\frac{87(2)(b)}{87(2)(b)}\$ (Allegations A and B). PO Avella spoke discourteously to \$\frac{87(2)(b)}{87(2)(b)}\$ (Allegation F), and searched \$\frac{87(2)(b)}{87(2)(b)}\$ (Allegation F), and searched the car (Allegation G). \$\frac{87(2)(b)}{87(2)(b)}\$ and \$\frac{87(2)(b)}{87(2)(b)}\$ were not issued summonses or arrested. \$\frac{87(4-b)}{87(4-b)}. \$\frac{87(2)(b)}{87(2)(b)}\$
On November 17, 2015, at approximately 1:50 p.m., at the rear of 3135 Park Avenue in the Bronx, PO Avella, PO Matthew Manchester and PO Justin Gelband of the 44 <sup>th</sup> Precinct stopped the car occupied by \$\frac{87(2)(b)}{87(2)(b)}  \text{and }\frac{87(2)(b)}{87(2)(b)}  \text{(Allegations O and P)}. An officer searched the car (Allegation Q). PO Avella searched \$\frac{87(2)(b)}{87(2)(b)}  \text{(Allegation R)}, and spoke discourteously and offensively to \$\frac{87(2)(b)}{87(2)(b)}  \text{(Allegations U and V)}. An officer spoke discourteously to \$\frac{87(2)(b)}{87(2)(b)}  \text{(Allegation W)} and officers spoke offensively to \$\frac{87(2)(b)}{87(2)(b)}  \text{(Allegation V)} and officers spoke offensively to \$\frac{87(2)(b)}{87(2)(b)}  \text{(Allegation V)}.
was issued a desk appearance ticket (Board Review 02) as a result of this incident and the criminal case is open as of this writing. \$87(2)(b) was issued Summons \$87(2)(b) (Board Review 03) for \$87(2)(b)  There is no available video footage of these incidents.  This report was submitted four days after the 90-day benchmark because additional time was needed to investigate the two separate incidents involved in this case.
<ul> <li>Mediation, Civil and Criminal Histories</li> <li>On December 3, 2015, it was confirmed that IAB was conducting a concurrent investigation for the incident on November 17, 2015, thereby rendering the case ineligible for mediation.</li> <li>No notice of claim has been filed in regard to these incidents as of January 19, 2016 (Board Review 04).</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>§ 87(2)(b)</li> <li>On February 16, 2016, a search of Office of Court Administration records revealed no criminal convictions for § 87(2)(b) in the past ten years.</li> </ul>

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# **Civilian and Officer CCRB Histories**

- This is the first complaint filed by and involving [887(2)(b)] (Board Review 07), and the first involving [887(2)(b)] (Board Review 08).
- PO Avella has been a member of service for 11 years and has 31 CCRB allegations pleaded against him in 16 other cases. None of these allegations have been substantiated.
  - Three other allegations of discourtesy (word) were pleaded against him in CCRB 201016413 (complainant uncooperative), CCRB 201112453 (complaint withdrawn) and CCRB 201501022 (complainant uncooperative).
  - Three other allegations of a vehicle stop were pleaded against him in CCRB 201016413 (complainant uncooperative), CCRB 201310709 (unsubstantiated) and CCRB 201310824 (unsubstantiated).
  - § 87(4-b), § 87(2)(g)
- PO Garner has been a member of service for four years and has one CCRB allegation pleaded against him in one other case. This allegation was not substantiated.
- PO Manchester has been a member of service for four years and has 11 CCRB allegations pleaded against him in five other cases. In CCRB 201307972, the Board substantiated and recommended charges for an allegation of physical force. In CCRB 201308713, the Board substantiated and recommended command discipline for an allegation of a search (of person). The NYPD dispositions and penalties for these allegations are pending as of this writing.
- PO Gelband has been a member of service for three years and has two CCRB allegations pleaded against him in one other case. These allegations were not substantiated.

## **Potential Issue**

On November 11, 2015, just before the interaction with officers, both \$87(2)(b) and received \$87(2)(b) and particularly \$87(2)(b) and particularly \$87(2)(b) and difficulty recalling the incidents, and it is unknown to what extent, if any, their conditions attributed to this.

#### **Additional Witness**

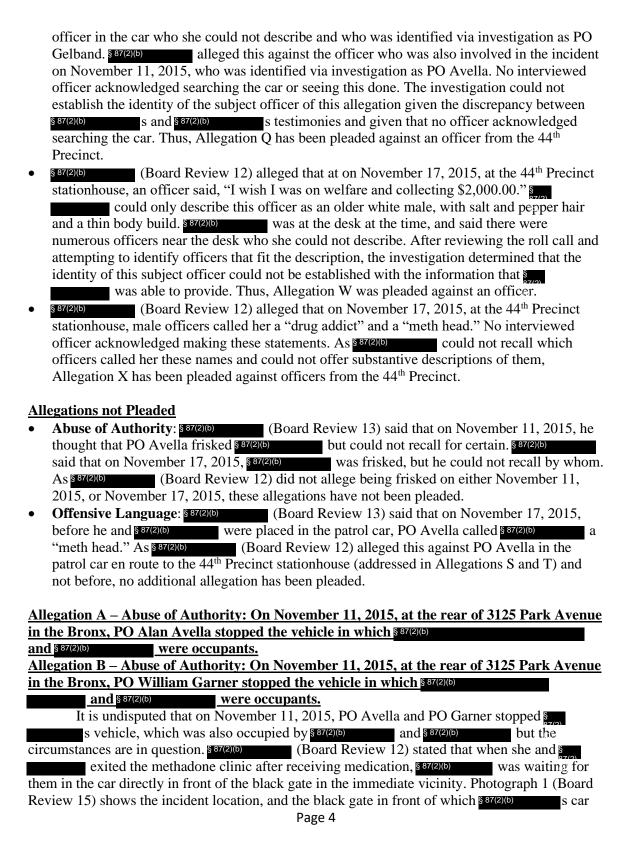
s husband, \$87(2)(b) was named as a victim in the first incident on November 11, 2015. Contact attempts to \$87(2)(b) as per agency standards were exhausted. As of this writing, \$87(2)(b) has not contacted the undersigned investigator. \$87(2)(b) has also been unresponsive to requests that she facilitate communication between the undersigned investigator and \$87(2)(b) On February 18, 2016, an online search of the New York City Department of Corrections website revealed that \$87(2)(b) was not incarcerated when contact attempts were being made to him.

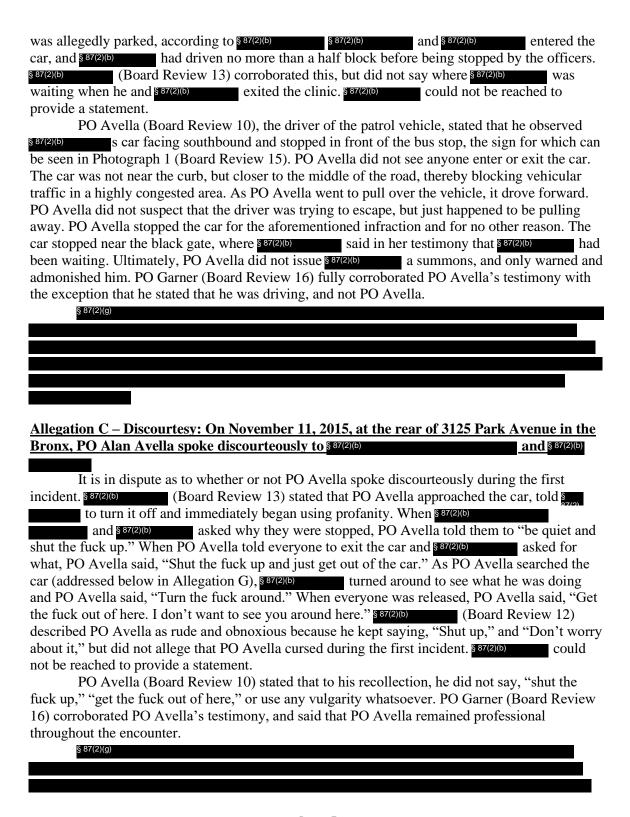
#### **Findings and Recommendations**

# **Explanation of Subject Officer Identification**

• Both \$87(2)(b) (Board Review 12) and \$87(2)(b) (Board Review 13) alleged that on November 17, 2015, an officer searched their car. \$87(2)(b) alleged this against the third

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## Allegation G – Abuse of Authority: On November 11, 2015, at the rear of 3125 Park Avenue in the Bronx, PO Alan Avella searched the vehicle in which \$87(2)(6) were occupants. It is undisputed that PO Avella searched the car occupied by \$87(2)(b) (driver), (front seat passenger) and § 37(2)(b) (backseat passenger), but the circumstances are in question. §87(2)(b) (Board Review 13) stated that after PO Avella returned from the patrol car with the group's identifications, PO Avella ordered everyone out of the car. PO Avella searched the car for three of four minutes, and did not find anything. § 87(2)(6) mention of any conversation occurring with the officers regarding pills found in the car. said that when everyone was at the back of the car, he informed PO Avella that he and had come from the \$87(2)(b) but made no mention of methadone being made no mention of § 87(2)(b) found in the car. § 87(2)(b) giving PO Avella permission to enter the car. § 87(2)(b) (Board Review 12) largely corroborated § 87(2)(b) s testimony. except that she made no mention of § 87(2)(b) telling PO Avella that she and § 87(2)(b) had come from the methadone clinic. § 87(2)(b) also made no mention of any pills or methadone being found in the car, or of § 87(2)(b) granting permission for PO Avella to enter the car. PO Avella (Board Review 10) stated that when \$87(2)(b) was retrieving documentation from his wallet, he noticed a loose, small, white pill and a container of methadone in plain view atop the center console area. The methadone container was a prescription bottle that was approximately an inch or two long, dark in color, opaque, and with a child-proof lid. PO Avella saw that there was a label on the methadone bottle, but he could not see what it said from where he stood at the driver's door. PO Avella asked to whom the methadone and pill belonged. stated that they were hers. §87(2)(b) stated that she had just come from the methadone clinic. PO Avella asked why the pill was not in a prescription bottle and he could not recall what explanation [397(2)] provided. PO Avella had the occupants step out of the car so that he could gain a better look at the narcotics without giving the occupants any opportunity to ingest or throw them. PO Avella could recall no other reason for doing this. PO Avella told that he was going to retrieve the pill from the car, and §87(2)(b) said that this was fine. PO Avella leaned into the car to retrieve the methadone to determine if it was prescribed to and to determine if the pill was a scheduled narcotic. PO Avella could recall no other reason for entering the car. PO Avella went to the passenger's side and found two additional pills on the floor of the front passenger's seat, where §87(2)(b) had been sitting. To PO Avella's recollection, he did not look into any closed compartments. Aside from the methadone and pills, PO Avella found nothing further in the car. The name on the bottle matched the name provided to PO Avella. With the aid of an application on his cellphone, PO Avella determined that the pills were a scheduled narcotic and determined that [887(2)(b)] a prescription bottle for the pills. PO Avella warned and admonished §87(2)(b) infraction (addressed in Allegation A) and § 37(2)(b) for the loose pills before the group was released. PO Garner (Board Review 16) corroborated PO Avella's testimony with the following exceptions and additional information: PO Garner said that he heard PO Avella ask, "Whose pills are those?" and did not hear what response was given. PO Garner observed a couple (he could not recall how many except that it was more than one) loose pills on the floor near [807(2)(b)] a few (he could not recall how many except that it was more than one) atop the center console. PO Garner could not recall what the pills looked like. PO Garner did not know what methadone

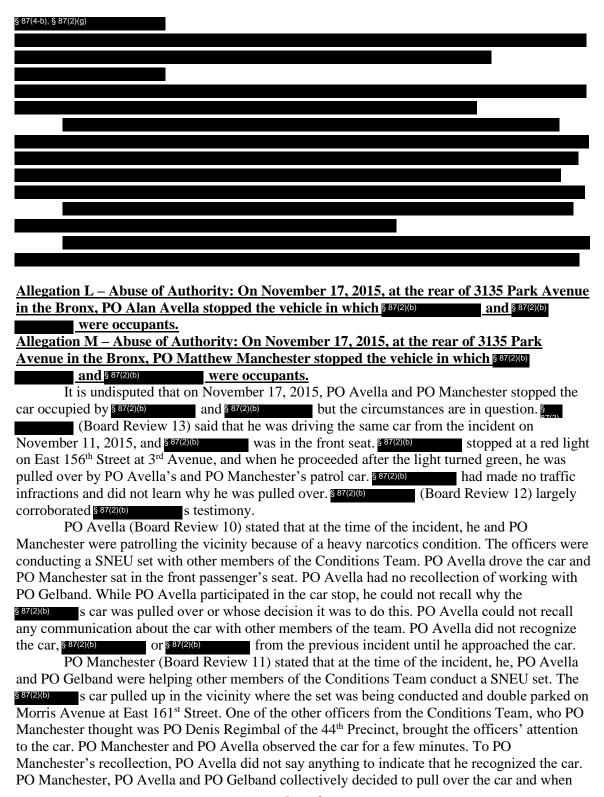
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looked like or in what container it comes, and therefore could not say if he observed any in the car. PO Garner could not see where PO Avella looked when he went inside the driver's door. PO Garner did not see PO Avella enter the front passenger's door or look in the backseats.

Pursuant to the automobile exception of the warrant requirement, an officer must have probable cause to believe that a vehicle contains evidence of a crime in order to conduct a vehicle search, <u>People v. Smith</u>, 949 N.Y.S.2d 474 (2<sup>nd</sup> Dept., 2012) (Board Review 35). The presence of loose pills will not justify the search of a car or the occupants without specific reason to believe that the pills were a controlled substance, <u>People v. Carbone</u>, 585 N.Y.S.2d 68 (2<sup>nd</sup> Dept., 1992) (Board Review 32).

§ 87(2)(g)	
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§ 87(4-b), § 87(2)(g)	
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§ 87(4-b), § 87(2)(g)	

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they went to do so, the car drove away. The officers followed the car and pulled it over at the rear of 3135 Park Avenue. The officers pulled over the car for the traffic infraction of it being double parked, and for no other reason. PO Manchester later released \$87(2)(b) from the 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct stationhouse with Summons § 87(2)(b) (Board Review 03) for § 87(2)(b) The narrative states that § 87(2)(b) was found blocking a lane of traffic by being double parked. PO Gelband (Board Review 09) said that at the time of the incident, PO Manchester and PO Avella were driving him back to the stationhouse and he was not involved in the decision to stop the car. PO Gelband's memo book places him at court on the morning of the incident (Board Review 14). PO Regimbal (Board Review 23) stated that he was on top of the roof of 280 East 161st Street and observing the corner of East 161st Street and Morris Avenue as part of the SNEU set. PO Regimbal saw a car illegally parked at a bus stop. PO Regimbal originally said that someone from the Conditions Team (he could not recall who) went over the point-to-point radio and asked him if he saw the car parked there, and PO Gelband stated over the radio that he did see it. PO Regimbal later said there was no transmissions about the car over the point-to-point radio before the car was stopped. PO Regimbal then returned to his original statement that an officer went over the radio and asked PO Regimbal if he saw it. § 87(2)(g) To effectuate a car stop, a police officer must be able to articulate credible facts establishing reasonable cause to believe that the vehicle or occupants were involved in a crime, or must have probable cause to believe that a traffic regulation has been violated, People v. Robinson, 97 N.Y.S.2d 341 (2001) (Board Review 33). Allegation N – On November 17, 2015, at the rear of 3135 Park Avenue in the Bronx, PO

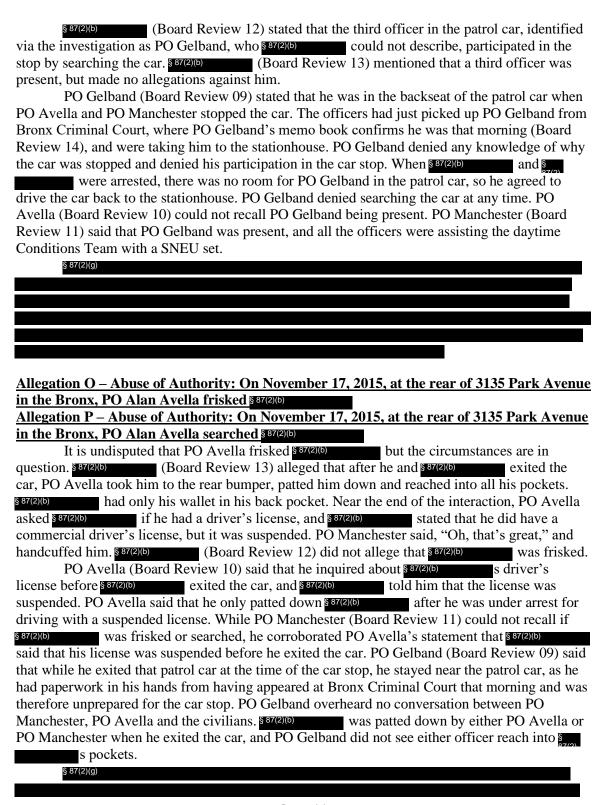
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wand § 87(2)(b)

Justin Gelband stopped the vehicle in which § 87(2)(b)

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occupants.



§ 87(2)(g)
Allegation Q – Abuse of Authority: On November 17, 2015 at the rear of 3135 Park Avenue
in the Bronx, an officer searched the vehicle in which \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b)
were occupants.
The search of \$87(2)(b) s and \$87(2)(b) s car is in dispute.
(Board Review 12) and \$87(2)(b) (Board Review 13) alleged that an officer searched the car,
and neither could say where in the car the officer searched as their backs were to the car.
alleged this against PO Gelband and \$87(2)(6) alleged this against PO Avella.
PO Gelband (Board Review 09) said that he drove the civilian car back to the
stationhouse, as there was no room for him in the patrol car once the arrests had been made. PO
Gelband did not see any contraband in plain view and did not look for any. PO Gelband denied
searching the car at any time, and stated that he did not see PO Avella or PO Manchester search
the car. PO Avella (Board Review 10) denied searching the car and did not think that any officer
did this. PO Manchester (Board Review 11) also denied searching the car or seeing PO Avella or
PO Gelband enter the car in any way.
§ 87(2)(g)
Allegation R – Abuse of Authority: On November 11, 2015, at the rear of 3125 Park Avenue
in the Bronx, PO Alan Avella searched §87(2)(b)
Although PO Avella (Board Review 10) could not recall searching \$87(2)(b)
purse, §87(2)(b) (Board Review 12) said that when he asked to do so while PO Gelband was
searching the car, she provided permission by saying, "By all means, go ahead." §87(2)(b)
said that she had been experiencing a bad toothache and had been taking over-the-counter pain
medication for this. § 87(2)(b) had no knowledge of any pills being in her purse, but PO
Avella showed her a pill that he found. §87(2)(6) did not see PO Avella retrieve the pill from
the purse. § 87(2)(b) told PO Avella that it had to be a Motrin or something similar, and PO
Avella insisted that it was a narcotic. The pill turned out to be Percocet, and §87(2)(b) had no
knowledge of Percocet being in her purse. §87(2)(b) (Board Review 13) also alleged that PO
Avella searched \$87(2)(b) s purse, but did not say that \$87(2)(b) provided consent for
this.
PO Manchester (Board Review 11) said that when \$87(2)(b) stated that his driver's
license was suspended, \$87(2)(b) said that she had a driver's license and could drive. PO
Manchester requested to see her driver's license. When \$87(2)(5) opened her purse, he
observed one large, white pill of a nondescript texture about a ½-inch in length with numbers
engraved on it. PO Manchester recognized the pill as a controlled substance, and \$87(2)(b)
was ultimately arrested for this. The pill was eventually recovered from the purse, but PO
Manchester could not recall how this was done.

Arrest Evidence Voucher § 87(2)(6) (Board Review 24) completed by PO Manchester on November 17, 2015, lists a Termadol tablet as the controlled substance found on
A police officer needs founded evenision of evincinality to request consent to seemb
A police officer needs founded suspicion of criminality to request consent to search, People v. Hollman, 79 N.Y.2d 181 (1992) (Board Review 36).
§ 87(2)(g)
Allegation S – Discourtesy: On November 17, 2015, en route to the 44th Precinct
stationhouse, PO Alan Avella spoke discourteously to \$87(2)(b)
Allegation T – Offensive Language: On November 17, 2015, en route to the 44th Precinct stationhouse, PO Alan Avella spoke offensively to \$\frac{867(2)(6)}{2}\$
and § 87(2)(b) both alleged that PO Avella spoke discourteously and
offensively to § 87(2)(b) § 87(2)(g)
(Board Review 12) said that in the patrol car, she and PO Avella
argued back and forth about the controlled substance found in her purse. PO Avella yelled at
and she yelled back at him. PO Avella said, "Oh, shut the fuck up. Look who I'm talking to—a fucking meth head." S87(2)(b) said, "Look who I'm talking to —a patroller."
PO Avella said, "Fuck this shit, man. We're going to fucking put you in the fucking system."
(Board Review 13) said that before the car was searched, \$87(2)(b)
and PO Avella argued about why the officers pulled them over. § 87(2)(b) told PO Avella
that she felt harassed because the officers had stopped her and \$87(2)(b) just days prior. PO
Avella said, "I'm not going to argue with a meth head." In the car, \$87(2)(b) said that PO
Avella asked \$87(2)(b) about the amount of money she had with her, and asked if she
worked. §87(2)(b) said that she was on public assistance. PO Avella responded, "Oh, yeah, I wish I was on the fucking same thing." PO Avella and §87(2)(b) argued whether the money
she had was drug money. PO Avella said, "I'm not going to argue with a fucking meth head."
PO Avella (Board Review 10) denied using any vulgarity with \$87(2)(6) at any point
during the incident, and denied calling her a "meth head." PO Manchester (Board Review 11) and
PO Gelband (Board Review 09) also denied hearing PO Avella make these statements.
§ 87(2)(g)

Allegation X – Offensive Langua	nge: On November 17, 20	15, at the 44th Precinct	
stationhouse, officers spoke offer			
(Board Review 13) said that from did not allege that officers called sofficer acknowledged calling \$87(2)(9)	officers in the stationhous could not recall wh his cell, he heard an office (87(2)(6)) a "drug add	e called her names such as "o these officers were. §87(2)(b)	her this drug
Squad: 16			
Squad. 10			
Investigator:	L. Fornelli		
Signature	Print	Date	
Pod Leader:			
Title/Signature	Print	Date	
Attorney:			
Title/Signature	Print	Date	